

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 264721

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/BC:JEKARKASHIAN:NG

APPROVED BY ARA:WROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CASC, PFOR, MASS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR HEITMANN'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ROGERS

1. CHILEAN AMBASSADOR HEITMANN CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ROGERS DECEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS VARIOUS SUBJECTS
OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND TO INFORM DEPARTMENT HE PLANNED TO
LEAVE WASHINGTON DECEMBER 13 FOR HOLIDAY VACATION IN
CHILE.

2. FOLLOWING USUAL COURTESIES, HEITMANN REFERRED TO FORTH-
COMING AYACUCHO MEETING IN LIMA AND SAID HE UNDERSTOOD
ROGERS WOULD ATTEND. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE
ATTEMPT THERE TO PROMOTE LA ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH
WOULD EXCLUDE THE UNITED STATES. HE PROFESSED TO HAVE NO
SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON SUCH PLAN BUT OBSERVED IT WOULD BE
SIGNAL VICTORY FOR CUBANS SHOULD IT SUCCEED. HE EXPRESSED
HOPE ROGERS WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY FOR BILATERAL WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL. HE NOTED MANY ISSUES OF BI-
LATERAL CONCERN INCLUDING "THREAT" FROM PERU AND PENDING
CHILEAN ARMS REQUESTS TO U.S. ROGERS ACKNOWLEDGED HIS
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PAGE 02 STATE 264721

INTENTION TO ATTEND AND SATISFACTION WITH OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH CARVAJAL.

3. RE PENDING ARMS REQUESTS, HEITMANN NOTED U.S. HAD INFORMED GOC THAT DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN OCTOBER AND THAT HE, HEITMANN, DID NOT KNOW WHETHER DECISION HAD ACTUALLY BEEN MADE. HE REVIEWED VARIOUS FACETS OF CHILEAN CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE AGGRESSION FROM NORTH, INCLUDING RECENT REPORTS OF IMPENDING PERUVIAN ACQUISITION OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT. HE CITED BOLIVIAN DESIRE FOR OUTLET TO THE SEA AND OBSERVED HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED SOME KIND OF "SOLUTION" COULD BE FOUND. PERUVIANS, HE SAID, HAD LIMITED OBJECTIVE OF SEIZING SOME CHILEAN TERRITORY IN THE NORTH. THIS HE ASSERTED COULD BE READILY ACCOMPLISHED SINCE CHILE WAS "DEFENSELESS", BUT, HE ADDED, CHILE WOULD NEVER ACQUIESCE TO TERRITORIAL LOSS.

4. HEITMANN SAID GOC DID NOT WANT ARMS FOR ARMS' SAKE BUT RATHER FOR DEFENSE AGAINST WHAT IT BELIEVED TO BE REAL THREAT TO ITS SECURITY. HE SAID THAT IF IT PROVED IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN ARMS ADEQUATE FOR ITS OWN PROTECTION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF CHILE COULD OBTAIN SOME SORT OF "GUARANTEE" OF ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE DID NOT SPECIFY OR OTHERWISE ELABORATE ON THEME INDICATING HIS COMMENT MAY HAVE BEEN OFFHAND AFTERTHOUGHT. HE GAVE NO INDICATION HE HAD SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION TO SEEK USG GUARANTEE OF CHILE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. ROGERS EXPRESSED DEEP USG CONCERN OVER CHILEAN NATIONAL SECURITY AND GOC PERCEIVED THREAT FROM PERU, ADDING THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN USG EXECUTIVE POSITION IN THAT REGARD. HE REFERRED TO SERIOUS PROBLEM POSED BY STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE AND REVIEWED STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL MARKUP OF FOREIGN AID BILL.

6. HEITMANN THEN REFERRED TO GOC DETENTION OF AMCIT AMY CONGER O'FLAHERTY. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY SANTIAGO AUTHORITIES THAT LATTER WAS NOT REPEAT NOT PHYSICALLY MISTREATED WHILE IN DETENTION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED SOME MISHANDLING BY GOC MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN FAILURE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 264721

PROMPTLY NOTIFY U.S. EMBASSY OF CONGER'S ARREST. HE LEFT WITH ROGERS A COPY OF A LETTER SIGNED BY CHILEAN EMBASSY CIVIL ATTACHE RAFAEL OTERO TO COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON REFUTING TORTURE ALLEGATIONS AND ASSERTING CONGER DETAINED BECAUSE OF HER ACTIVITIES WITH EXTREME LEFTIST ORGANIZATION MIR. LETTER ALSO ALLEGES CONGER MARRIED TO ARGENTINE ERP MEMBER BUT WAS LIVING WITH 18-YEAR OLD CHILEAN

NATIONAL AT THE TIME OF HER ARREST. HEITMANN SAID FURTHER

LETTER DETAILING CIRCUMSTANCES OF AND REASONS FOR CONGER
DETENTION WOULD BE SENT TO ANDERSON.

7. HEITMANN CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING DESIRE INVITE POLICY
PLANNING STAFF TEAM WHICH RECENTLY VISITED CHILE FOR
DINNER-DISCUSSION SESSION AT CHILEAN EMBASSY BEFORE HIS
DEPARTURE FOR SANTIAGO. HE EXTENDED INVITATION TO ROGERS
AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. KISSINGER

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